



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2010  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV)

AT  
(202) 514-2007  
TDD (202) 514-1888

## **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND USDA ANNOUNCE** **AGENDA FOR AUGUST 27 LIVESTOCK WORKSHOP IN COLORADO**

### *Workshop to be Held at Colorado State University*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today the agenda and panelists for the Aug. 27, 2010, joint public workshop in Fort Collins, Colo., on competition in the livestock industry. This is the fourth in a series of five public workshops. This workshop is focused on the state of competition and regulation in the livestock sectors, in particular the cattle industry.

The workshop will be held in the main ballroom of the Lory Student Center, Colorado State University, 1101 Centre Avenue Mall, Fort Collins. Attendance is free and open to the public. The general public and media interested in attending the Colorado workshop should register at [www.conferences.colostate.edu/LiveStockWorkshop](http://www.conferences.colostate.edu/LiveStockWorkshop).

The workshop will begin with opening remarks and a roundtable discussion including U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Antitrust Division Christine Varney. They will be joined by U.S. Rep. Betsy Markey, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Colorado Attorney General John Suthers, Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture John Stulp and Montana Attorney General Steve Bullock.

Following this introductory discussion, there will be three panels composed of ranchers, farmers, academics and other industry stakeholders. First, Secretary Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Varney will moderate a conversation among producers and feeders. Second, a panel on trends will look at developments in the industry in recent decades and the trajectory moving forward. The final panel will then discuss in greater depth issues such as contracting, transparency and vertical integration.

Additionally, there will be three hours dedicated to public testimony. This will be split into two sessions, one at mid-day and the other after the final panel.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

**8:30 a.m – 8:45 a.m. MDT                      Opening Remarks**

Eric Holder, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. MDT                      Keynote Roundtable Discussion**

Eric Holder, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Christine Varney, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice  
Betsy Markey, Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives  
Bill Ritter Jr., Governor, state of Colorado  
John Suthers, Attorney General, state of Colorado  
Steve Bullock, Attorney General, state of Montana  
John Stulp, Commissioner of Agriculture, state of Colorado

**9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. MDT                      Coffee Break**

**10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. MDT                      Producer/Feeder Presentation of Issues**

This panel will be an opportunity to hear first-hand from producers or feeders as they share their experiences and perspectives on the industry.

*Moderators:* Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Christine Varney, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, U.S.  
Department of Justice

Mike Harper, sheep producer, Eaton, Colo.  
Dr. Taylor Haynes, rancher, Cheyenne, Wyo.  
Robbie LeValley, rancher, Hotchkiss, Colo.  
Harry Livermont, rancher, Interior, S.D.  
Chris Petersen, hog farmer, Clear Lake, Iowa  
Allen Sents, feedlot owner, Marquette, Kan.  
Alden Zuhlke, rancher, Brunswick, Neb.

**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. MDT                      Lunch**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. MDT                      Public Testimony**

**1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. MDT                      Panel I – Trends in the Livestock Industry**

This panel will discuss trends in the livestock industry, including issues associated with

contracting, price transparency and the effects of concentration.

*Moderator:* Philip Weiser, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Jerry Bohn, general manager, Pratt Feeders, Pratt, Kan.  
Libby Cook, co-founder, Wild Oats Markets and Sunflower Farmers Markets  
Mark Greenwood, vice president, commercial lending, AgStar Financial Services  
Bill Heffernan, professor emeritus of rural sociology, University of Missouri  
Mark Lauritsen, international vice president, director food processing, packing and manufacturing division, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
Gilles Stockton, rancher, Range, Mont.  
Armando Valdez, rancher, La Jara, Colo.  
Clem Ward, professor and extension economist, Oklahoma State University

**2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. MDT**

**Panel II – Market Structure**

This panel will include a variety of market participants who will discuss market structure issues in the livestock industry.

*Moderator:* James MacDonald, Chief, Agricultural Structure and Productivity Branch, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Bruce Cobb, general manager, Consolidated Beef Producers  
David Domina, attorney, Domina Law Group  
Mark Dopp, attorney, American Meat Institute  
James Herring, president and chief executive officer, Friona Industries  
Robert Mack, cattle producer/feeder, Watertown, S.D.  
Bob Miller, rancher, Okmulgee, Okla.  
William Rishel, Richel Angus, Platt, Neb.  
Charlie Rogers, owner/general manager, Clovis Livestock Auction

**4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. MDT**

**Break**

**4:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. MDT**

**Public Testimony**

**6:30 p.m. MDT**

**Concluding Remarks**

Additional information, including submitted public comments and transcripts for past workshops can be found at the Antitrust Division's agriculture workshop website at

[www.justice.gov/atr/public/workshops/ag2010/index.htm](http://www.justice.gov/atr/public/workshops/ag2010/index.htm). While no streaming webcast will be available, transcripts and video will be available for this workshop at a later date on the Antitrust Division's website. Individuals seeking more information on the workshops should contact [agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov](mailto:agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov).

Media who wish to attend the workshop may begin arriving at 7:00 a.m. MDT and cameras must be pre-set by 8:00 a.m. MDT. Press inquiries regarding logistics at the Lory Student Center at Colorado State University should be directed to Brad Bohlander at [Brad.Bohlander@colostate.edu](mailto:Brad.Bohlander@colostate.edu) or 970-491-1545.

###

MEDIA CONTACTS:

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Public Affairs  
Alisa Finelli  
202-514-2007

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of Communications  
Jim Brownlee  
202-720-4623

10-943